OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND DISEASES IN **ALBERTA**

Lost-Time Claims and Claim Rates

Health Services Industries

2000 to 2004

Released July 2005

WORK SAFE ALBERTA

Alberta HUMAN RESOURCES AND EMPLOYMENT

the people & workplace department

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HIGHLIGHTS

From 2000 to 2004...

- There were 17,173 lost-time claims from workers in the Health Services industries. Of those, 56.0% involved Hospitals and Acute Care Centres, and 25.9% Long Term Care Facilities.
- Sprains, strains and tears were the most common nature of injury, accounting for 67.5% of the total lost-time claims.
- The trunk was the most common body part injured, accounting for 53.8% of all claims.
- Overexertion accounted for 44.1% of accident types.
- Nearly half of the injured workers were 25 to 44 years of age.
- Claims resulting in one to five days off from work represented 38.6% of all claims.

In 2004...

- The Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) – Alberta accepted 3,493 lost-time claims from Health Services workers, representing 9.9% of all lost-time claims in the province.
- The lost-time claim rate for the Health Services industries was 4.0 per 100 person-years, as compared to the provincial rate of 2.6.
- The duration rate for the Health Services industries was 92 days lost per 100 person-years compared to the provincial rate of 65 per 100 person-years.
- Health Units had the lowest lost-time claim rate of all Health Services industries, at 1.7 per 100 person-years. Long Term Care Facilities had the highest lost-time claim rate, at 6.0 per 100 person-years.
- Employers with 40 to 99 person-years had the highest lost-time claim rate of 5.2 per 100 person-years.
- Less than seven percent of all employers in the Health Services industries had a valid Certificate of Recognition (COR).

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INTRODUCTION

Role of Alberta Human Resources and Employment

Alberta Human Resources and Employment (AHRE) invests in people and fosters safe and productive workplaces. AHRE develops and delivers programs and services which contribute to workplaces that are safe, healthy, fair and stable for workers and employers by:

- Working with industry and safety associations to audit and certify health and safety programs.
- Helping employers, workers, unions and industry associations work together by offering facilitation services, workshops and partnership opportunities.
- Developing and maintaining policy and legislated standards in Alberta.
- Preparing and providing ongoing support of Alberta's workplace health and safety legislation.
- Explaining legislated standards under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Employment Standards Code and ensuring compliance through complaint resolution, investigation and targeted inspections.

Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Health Services Industries 2000 to 2004

Each year, AHRE prepares a report on the occupational injuries and diseases in the Health Services industries. The purpose of this report is to provide government, employers, workers, and health and safety professionals in the Health Services industries with information about key health and safety issues.

This report includes:

- An estimation of the risk of injury or disease (lost-time claim rate) in addition to general descriptive information about incidents and injured workers.
- The number of employers that earned a Certificate of Recognition (COR).

Notes about this report:

- While this report focuses on 2004 data, information for 2000 to 2003 is also provided for comparison.
- The lost-time claim rate based on a few person-years is too volatile to make a valid comparison; therefore the lost-time claim rate is not calculated when there are fewer than 40 person-years.
- Duration rate is highly unstable when based on a few lost-time claims. Duration rate is not calculated when there are fewer than 30 lost-time claims.
- Percentages may not add up to 100 because of rounding.
- Terms, definitions and formulas are described in Appendix A. Industry codes are listed in Appendix B.

SECTION 2

LOST-TIME CLAIM RATE AND DURATION RATE

The lost-time claim rate[1] represents the probability or risk of a disabling injury or disease to a worker during a period of one year. The 2004 lost-time claim rate for the Health Services industries was 4.0 per 100 person-years.

In 2004, there were 3,493 lost-time claims in the Health Services industries, representing 9.9% of total lost-time claims in the province. The Health Services industries' lost-time claim rate was 4.0 per 100 person-years, as compared to the provincial rate of 2.6 (see Table 2.0). The lost-time claim rate of 4.0 per 100 person-years translates to 20 lost-time claims per million hours worked.

The duration rate is intended to reflect, in part, the economic impact of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work per 100 person-years. In 2004, the Health Services industries had a duration rate of 92, an 18.6% decrease from 113 in 2003, and 41.5% higher than the provincial duration rate of 65.

Table 2.0
Health Services Industries — Alberta: 2000-2004

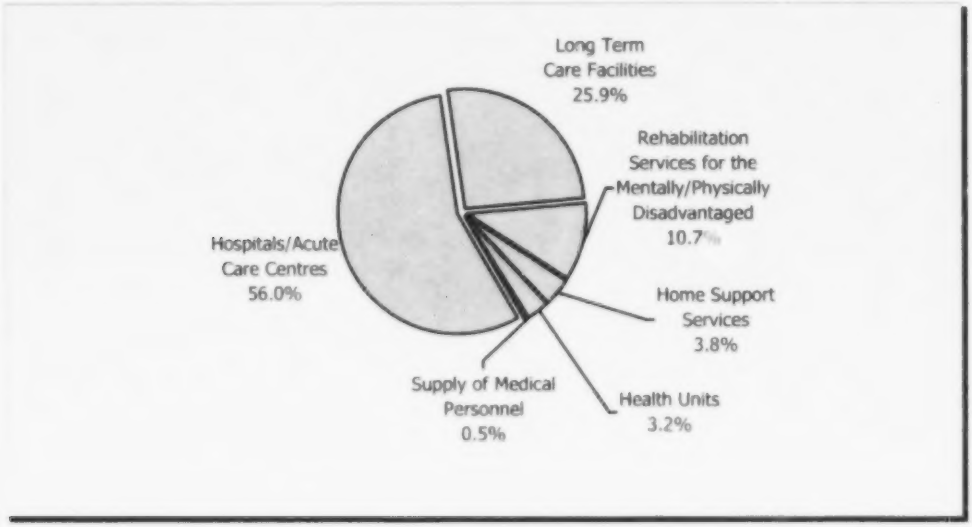
Year	Number of Accounts	Cost of Claims	Person-Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	Lost-Time Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate
2000	1,091	$10,097,497	72,350	88,660	123	3,139	4.3
2001	1,185	$10,456,000	76,993	91,429	119	3,267	4.2
2002	1,225	$13,680,882	79,580	102,605	129	3,630	4.6
2003	1,296	$14,076,812	81,324	92,275	113	3,644	4.5
2004	**1,299**	**$13,501,977**	**86,626**	**80,045**	**92**	**3,493**	**4.0**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[1] The rate has been calculated from lost-time claims data as of March 31, 2005. This rate underestimates the risk of occupational injury and disease since some lost-time claims that occurred in 2004 were not administered by March 31, 2005.

Between 2000 and 2004, there were 17,173 lost-time claims in the Health Services industries. Hospitals and Acute Care Centres accounted for 56.0% of the total lost-time claims, followed by Long Term Care Facilities, at 25.9%. The Supply of Medical Personnel industry experienced the fewest lost-time claims, at 0.5% (see Chart 2.0).

Chart 2.0
Percentage of Lost-Time Claims by Health Services Industry — Alberta: 2000-2004


Long Term Care Facilities 25.9%
Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally/Physically Disadvantaged 10.7%
Home Support Services 3.8%
Health Units 3.2%
Supply of Medical Personnel 0.5%
Hospitals/Acute Care Centres 56.0%

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.1 Lost-Time Claim Rate by Size of Employer

In the Health Services industries, employers with 40 to 99 person-years had the highest lost-time claim rate at 5.2, followed by employers with 20 to 39 person-years, at 4.5. Employers with less than 10 person-years had the lowest lost-time claim rate at 1.8 (see Table 2.1). For the province, employers with 20 to 39 and 40 to 99 person-years had the highest lost-time claim rate while employers with less than 10 person-years had the lowest.

Table 2.1
Lost-Time Claim Rate by Size[2] of Employer — Alberta: 2004

Size of Employer	Number of Accounts	Lost-Time Claims	Person-Years	Lost-Time Claim Rate
Less than 10 person-years	895	27	1,541	1.8
10 to 19 person-years	65	32	975	3.3
20 to 39 person-years	69	93	2,055	4.5
40 to 99 person-years	106	338	6,562	5.2
100 or more person-years	138	3,003	75,493	4.0
Unspecified	26	0	0	N/A

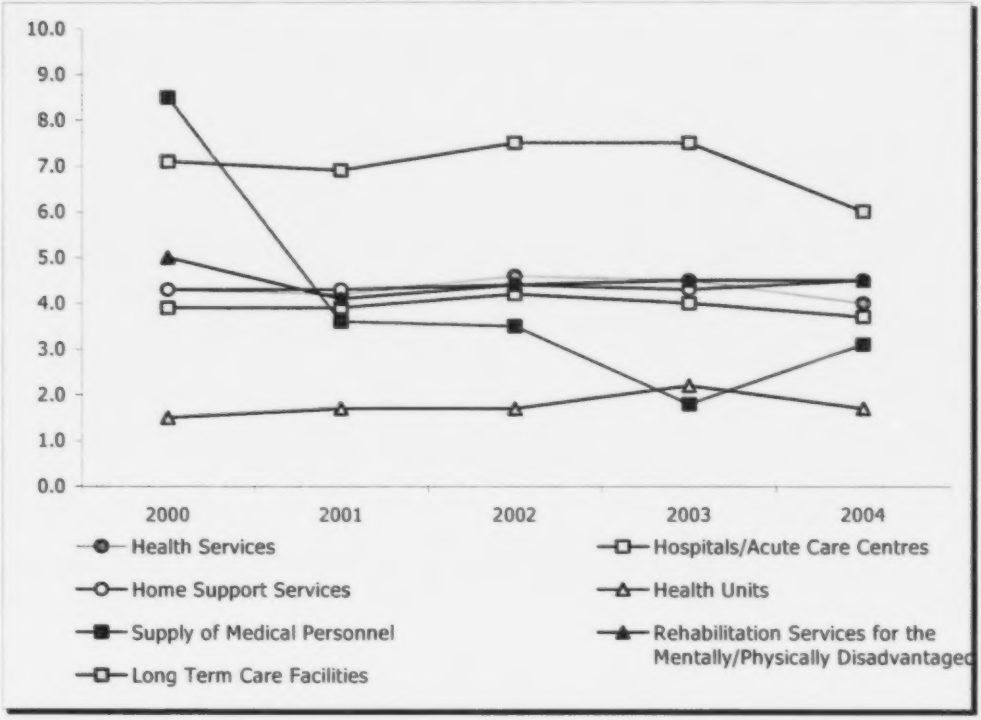
Data Source: 2004 WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.2 Lost-Time Claims by Health Services Industry

Between 2000 and 2004, Long Term Care Facilities had the highest lost-time claim rate for the most recent four years. Health Units had the lowest rate throughout all five years (see Chart 2.2).

[2] Size is measured in terms of person-years.

Chart 2.2
Lost-Time Claim Rate by Health Services Industry — Alberta: 2000-2004



Industry	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Health Services Industries	4.3	4.2	4.6	4.5	**4.0**
Hospitals/Acute Care Centres	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.0	**3.7**
Home Support Services	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.3	**4.5**
Health Units	1.5	1.7	1.7	2.2	**1.7**
Supply of Medical Personnel	8.5	3.6	3.5	1.8	**3.1**
Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally or Physically Disadvantaged	5.0	4.1	4.4	4.5	**4.5**
Long Term Care Facilities	7.1	6.9	7.5	7.5	**6.0**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.2A Hospitals and Acute Care Centres

The Hospitals and Acute Care Centres industry had a lost-time claim rate of 3.7 per 100 person-years in 2004, lower than the overall rate of 4.0 for all Health Services industries. The lost-time claim rate of 3.7 per 100 person-years was a 7.5% decrease from 2003 (see Table 2.2A).

Table 2.2A
Hospitals and Acute Care Centres — Alberta: 2000-2004

Year	Number of Accounts	Cost of Claims	Person-Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	Lost-Time Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate
2000	180	$6,096,574	44,470	47,241	106	1,721	3.9
2001	171	$6,166,151	47,505	46,827	99	1,856	3.9
2002	173	$8,065,072	48,928	53,180	109	2,061	4.2
2003	196	$8,099,431	50,672	48,717	96	2,024	4.0
2004	**157**	**$8,299,709**	**53,217**	**45,366**	**85**	**1,963**	**3.7**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.2B Home Support Services

In 2004, Home Support Services had a lost-time claim rate of 4.5 per 100 person-years, the highest rate over the last five years. The duration rate was 168 days lost per 100 person-years, a decrease of 25.7% from 2003 (see Table 2.2B).

Table 2.2B
Home Support Services — Alberta: 2000-2004

Year	Number of Accounts	Cost of Claims	Person-Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	Lost-Time Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate
2000	577	$353,374	2,759	4,987	181	118	4.3
2001	643	$543,768	2,865	6,136	214	124	4.3
2002	654	$639,333	2,899	7,009	242	128	4.4
2003	657	$732,845	2,986	6,745	226	127	4.3
2004	**669**	**$594,084**	**3,347**	**5,618**	**168**	**152**	**4.5**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.2C Health Units

In 2004, Health Units had a lost-time claim rate of 1.7 per 100 person-years, a decrease of 22.7% from 2003. The duration rate was 46 per 100 person-years, up 17.9% from 2003 (see Table 2.2C).

Table 2.2C
Health Units — Alberta: 2000-2004

Year	Number of Accounts	Cost of Claims	Person-Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	Lost-Time Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate
2000	25	$269,664	5,934	1,968	33	91	1.5
2001	23	$303,928	6,097	2,488	41	104	1.7
2002	23	$431,032	6,275	2,715	43	105	1.7
2003	29	$427,460	5,851	2,303	39	129	2.2
2004	**19**	**$516,701**	**6,743**	**3,097**	**46**	**115**	**1.7**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.2D Supply of Medical Personnel

Supply of Medical Personnel experienced a 72.7% increase in the lost-time claim rate from 1.8 per 100 person-years in 2003 to 3.1 in 2004. This industry is relatively small in comparison to other industries and therefore, injury and disease statistics can vary significantly from year to year (see Table 2.2D).

Table 2.2D
Supply of Medical Personnel — Alberta: 2000-2004

Year	Number of Accounts	Cost of Claims	Person-Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	Lost-Time Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate
2000	52	$74,193	307	918	N/A	26	8.5
2001	70	$24,263	333	424	N/A	12	3.6
2002	80	$71,956	425	685	N/A	15	3.5
2003	109	$14,472	570	87	N/A	10	1.8
2004	**149**	**$112,833**	**650**	**1,061**	**N/A**	**20**	**3.1**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.2E Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally or Physically Disadvantaged

The lost-time claim rate for Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally or Physically Disadvantaged remained unchanged at 4.5 per 100 person-years in 2004. The duration rate decreased by 38.2% in 2004 to 89 per 100 person-years (see Table 2.2E).

Table 2.2E
Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally or Physically Disadvantaged — Alberta: 2000-2004

Year	Number of Accounts	Cost of Claims	Person-Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	Lost-Time Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate
2000	148	$982,886	7,405	10,257	139	367	5.0
2001	143	$774,243	8,071	6,575	81	331	4.1
2002	141	$1,244,715	8,408	11,196	133	373	4.4
2003	144	$1,555,080	8,248	11,877	144	374	4.5
2004	**146**	**$1,120,479**	**8,495**	**7,548**	**89**	**386**	**4.5**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.2F Long Term Care Facilities

In 2004, the Long Term Care Facilities industry had the highest lost-time claim rate of all Health Services industries, at 6.0 per 100 person-years. The duration rate fell 29.5% from 173 to 122 per 100 person-years in 2004 (see Table 2.2F).

Table 2.2F
Long Term Care Facilities — Alberta: 2000-2004

Year	Number of Accounts	Cost of Claims	Person-Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	Lost-Time Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate
2000	109	$2,320,805	11,475	23,289	203	816	7.1
2001	135	$2,643,648	12,122	28,979	239	840	6.9
2002	154	$3,228,773	12,644	27,820	220	948	7.5
2003	161	$3,247,523	12,997	22,546	173	980	7.5
2004	**159**	**$2,858,171**	**14,174**	**17,355**	**122**	**857**	**6.0**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

SECTION 3

INJURY AND DISEASE ANALYSIS

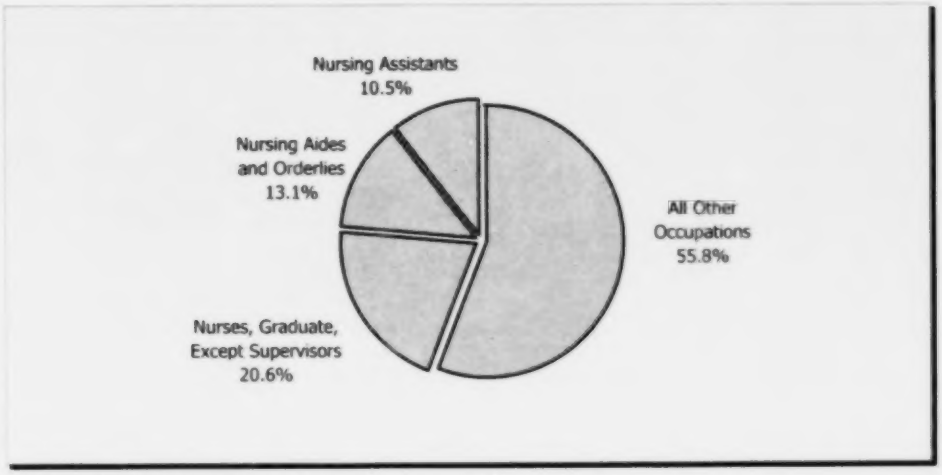
Overexertion was the most common cause for lost-time claims in the Health Services industries. Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury with the trunk being the most commonly injured body part.

In this section, we examine the characteristics of the injured workers and the nature of their injuries or diseases. Tables are provided to enable comparisons of 2004 injuries and diseases in Health Services industries with provincial averages and trends. A detailed explanation of the formulas for calculating the indicators of the comparison tables is available in Appendix A.

3.1 Injured Worker Characteristics

In 2004, over 44.2% of lost-time claims in the Health Services industries occurred in the following occupations: Nurses, Graduates – Except Supervisors, 20.6%; Nursing Aides and Orderlies, 13.1%; and Nursing Assistants, 10.5% (see Chart 3.1A).

Chart 3.1A
Lost-Time Claims by Occupation — Alberta: 2004



Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Between 2000 and 2004, nearly half of all claims were from workers aged 25 to 44 years, followed by workers aged 45 years and older at 42.7%. Young workers aged 15 to 24 years accounted for 7.8% of the total claims (see Table 3.1A).

Table 3.1A
Lost-Time Claims by Age — Alberta: 2000-2004

Age	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
15 – 19 Years	27	48	44	41	**38**	198	1.2%
20 – 24 Years	194	217	237	254	**240**	1,142	6.6%
25 – 34 Years	631	650	683	695	**641**	3,300	19.2%
35 – 44 Years	1,011	998	1,113	1,077	**991**	5,190	30.2%
45 – 54 Years	900	975	1,071	1,084	**1,086**	5,116	29.8%
55 – 64 Years	368	369	461	472	**482**	2,152	12.5%
65 Years and Over	5	5	20	21	**13**	64	0.4%
Unspecified	3	5	1	0	**2**	11	0.1%
Total	**3,139**	**3,267**	**3,630**	**3,644**	**3,493**	**17,173**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the Health Services industries, 86.7% of total claims in the last five years were from women. The number of lost-time claims from men had increased in each year since 2000 before falling slightly in 2004 (see Table 3.1B).

Table 3.1B
Lost-Time Claims by Gender — Alberta: 2000-2004

Gender	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
Women	2,697	2,816	3,135	3,169	**3,067**	14,884	86.7%
Men	383	385	422	436	**398**	2,024	11.8%
Unspecified	59	66	73	39	**28**	265	1.5%
Total	**3,139**	**3,267**	**3,630**	**3,644**	**3,493**	**17,173**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

3.2 Nature of Injury or Disease

The nature of injury is used to identify the physical characteristics of the injury or disease. Between 2000 and 2004, 90.3% of lost-time claims were caused by traumatic injuries and disorders. The most common traumatic injury and disorder was sprains, strains and tears, representing 67.5% of all claims (see Table 3.2A).

Table 3.2A
Nature of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2000-2004

Nature of Injury or Disease	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	**2,869**	**2,940**	**3,244**	**3,291**	**3,161**	**15,505**	**90.3%**
Sprains, Strains and Tears	2,158	2,240	2,425	2,432	2,344	11,599	67.5%
Surface Wounds and Bruises	226	238	250	255	255	1,224	7.1%
Fractures and Dislocations	100	111	118	100	107	536	3.1%
Open Wounds	101	81	99	101	90	472	2.7%
Burns	51	57	65	59	54	286	1.7%
Other Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	233	213	287	344	311	1,388	8.1%
Systemic Diseases and Disorders	**152**	**147**	**159**	**129**	**131**	**718**	**4.2%**
Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions	**13**	**11**	**23**	**20**	**14**	**81**	**0.5%**
Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**7**	**13**	**12**	**13**	**16**	**61**	**0.4%**
Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	**12**	**7**	**3**	**16**	**27**	**65**	**0.4%**
Multiple Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**< 0.1%**
Neoplasms, Tumors and Cancer	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**< 0.1%**
Nature of Injury – Unknown	**86**	**148**	**188**	**174**	**144**	**740**	**4.3%**
Total	**3,139**	**3,267**	**3,630**	**3,644**	**3,493**	**17,173**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2004, sprains, strains and tears accounted for over two-thirds of all claims from Health Services industries. This was more than twice the average percentage of injuries for this nature of injury category for the whole province. All nature of injuries or diseases for the Health Services industries were equal to or higher than the provincial average, except open wounds, fractures and dislocations, and systemic diseases and disorders (see Table 3.2B).

Table 3.2B
Nature of Injury or Disease — Comparison 2004[3]

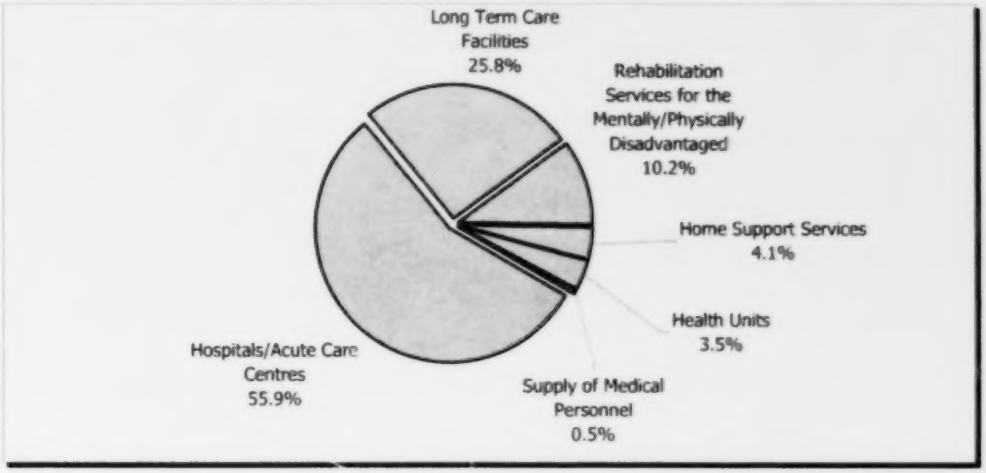
Nature of Injury or Disease	% of Health Services Industries' Claims	% of Total Provincial Claims	Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average
Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	**90.5%**	**88.9%**	**1.6**
Sprains, Strains and Tears	67.1%	46.8%	2.2
Surface Wounds and Bruises	7.3%	11.0%	1.0
Open Wounds	2.6%	8.7%	0.5
Fractures and Dislocations	3.1%	8.9%	0.5
Burns	1.5%	2.4%	1.0
Other Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	8.9%	11.0%	1.3
Systemic Diseases and Disorders	**3.8%**	**6.3%**	**0.9**
Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions	**0.4%**	**0.3%**	**2.0**
Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**0.5%**	**0.3%**	**2.1**
Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	**0.8%**	**0.1%**	**9.8**
Nature of Injury – Unknown	**4.1%**	**4.0%**	**1.6**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[3] Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

In 2004, there were 2,344 lost-time claims resulting from sprains, strains and tears in the Health Services industries. More than half of these claims occurred in Hospitals and Acute Care Centres, followed by Long Term Care Facilities at 25.8% (see Chart 3.2A).

Chart 3.2A
Sprains, Strains and Tears by Industry — Alberta: 2004


Long Term Care Facilities 25.8%
Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally/Physically Disadvantaged 10.2%
Home Support Services 4.1%
Health Units 3.5%
Supply of Medical Personnel 0.5%
Hospitals/Acute Care Centres 55.9%

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Between 2000 and 2004, 83.1% of sprains, strains and tears claims occurred in two industries. Hospitals and Acute Care Centres accounted for 55.6%, followed by Long Term Care Facilities at 27.5% (see Table 3.2C).

Table 3.2C
Sprains, Strains and Tears by Industry — Alberta: 2000-2004

Industry	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
Hospitals/Acute Care Centres	1,172	1,274	1,354	1,337	**1,310**	6,447	55.6%
Long Term Care Facilities	595	615	678	698	**604**	3,190	27.5%
Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally or Physically Disadvantaged	235	204	226	214	**240**	1,119	9.6%
Home Support Services	74	84	84	86	**95**	423	3.6%
Health Units	65	57	71	88	**83**	364	3.1%
Supply of Medical Personnel	17	6	12	9	**12**	56	0.5%
Health Services Industries	**2,158**	**2,240**	**2,425**	**2,432**	**2,344**	**11,599**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

3.3 Part of Body Injured

Between 2000 and 2004, the trunk was the most commonly injured body part, accounting for over half of the total lost-time claims in the Health Services industries, followed by upper extremities at 17.3%.

The most common trunk injury was to the back, including spine and spinal cord, representing 38.5% of the total lost-time claims (see Table 3.3A).

Table 3.3A
Part of Body Injured — Alberta: 2000-2004

Part of Body Injured	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
Trunk	**1,794**	**1,800**	**1,885**	**1,927**	**1,828**	**9,234**	**53.8%**
Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord	1,290	1,302	1,330	1,374	1,316	6,612	38.5%
Other Trunk	504	498	555	553	512	2,622	15.3%
Upper Extremities	**543**	**563**	**632**	**623**	**608**	**2,969**	**17.3%**
Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s)	226	223	231	253	270	1,203	7.0%
Finger(s), Fingernail(s)	138	118	139	139	115	649	3.8%
Other Upper Extremities	179	222	262	231	223	1,117	6.5%
Lower Extremities	**330**	**365**	**397**	**384**	**378**	**1,854**	**10.8%**
Leg(s)	169	178	217	211	197	972	5.7%
Ankle(s) and Foot (Feet) Except Toes	134	157	150	153	152	746	4.3%
Other Lower Extremities	27	30	30	20	29	136	0.8%
Multiple Body Parts	**246**	**287**	**451**	**460**	**408**	**1,852**	**10.8%**
Neck, Including Throat	**106**	**113**	**104**	**97**	**84**	**504**	**2.9%**
Head	**99**	**108**	**130**	**117**	**128**	**582**	**3.4%**
Eye(s)	37	33	37	28	31	166	1.0%
Other Head Parts	62	75	93	89	97	416	2.4%
Body Systems	**15**	**27**	**17**	**25**	**48**	**132**	**0.8%**
Other Body Parts	**3**	**0**	**5**	**2**	**3**	**13**	**0.1%**
Part of Body - Unknown	**3**	**4**	**9**	**9**	**8**	**33**	**0.2%**
Total	**3,139**	**3,267**	**3,630**	**3,644**	**3,493**	**17,173**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2004, the back, including spine and spinal cord accounted for 37.7% of all claims in the Health Services industries. This was more than twice the average percentage of injuries for this part of body category for the whole province. Multiple body parts represented 11.7% of claims, and was 2.4 times higher than the provincial average (see Table 3.3B).

Table 3.3B
Part of Body Injured — Comparison 2004[4]

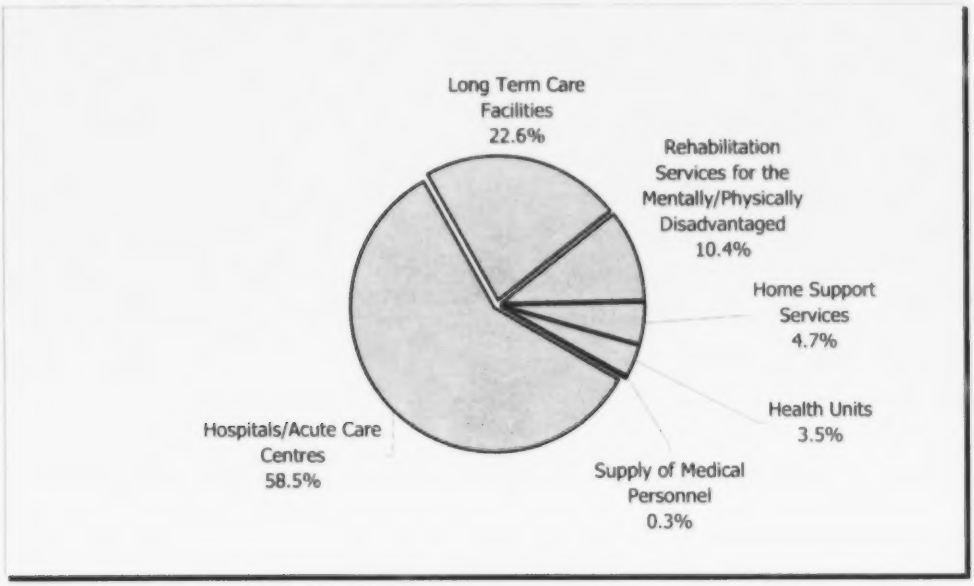
Part of Body Injured	% of Health Services Industries' Claims	% of Total Provincial Claims	Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average
Trunk	**52.3%**	**38.6%**	**2.1**
Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord	37.7%	25.9%	2.3
Other Trunk	14.7%	12.7%	1.8
Upper Extremities	**17.4%**	**24.1%**	**1.1**
Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s)	7.7%	9.6%	1.3
Finger(s), Fingernail(s)	3.3%	8.0%	0.6
Other Upper Extremities	6.4%	6.6%	1.4
Multiple Body Parts	**11.7%**	**8.5%**	**2.4**
Lower Extremities	**10.8%**	**18.6%**	**0.9**
Leg(s)	5.6%	8.9%	0.9
Ankle(s) and Foot (Feet) Except Toes	4.4%	8.3%	0.8
Other Lower Extremities	0.8%	1.4%	1.1
Head	**3.7%**	**7.1%**	**0.8**
Eye(s)	0.9%	2.8%	0.5
Other Head Parts	2.8%	4.3%	0.9
Neck, Including Throat	**2.4%**	**2.1%**	**1.7**
Body Systems	**1.4%**	**0.5%**	**3.3**
Other Body Parts	**0.1%**	**0.1%**	**1.9**
Part of Body - Unknown	**0.2%**	**0.3%**	**1.7**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[4] Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

In 2004, 58.5% of claims affecting the back, including spine and spinal cord, occurred in Hospitals and Acute Care Centres, followed by Long Term Care Facilities at 22.6% (see Chart 3.3A).

Chart 3.3A
Back Injuries by Industry — Alberta: 2004


Long Term Care Facilities 22.6%
Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally/Physically Disadvantaged 10.4%
Home Support Services 4.7%
Health Units 3.5%
Supply of Medical Personnel 0.3%
Hospitals/Acute Care Centres 58.5%

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

3.4 Source of Injury or Disease

The source of injury or disease describes the object or substance that the worker came into contact with resulting in an injury or disease. Between 2000 and 2004, the two primary sources of injury in the Health Services industries accounted for 54.4% of total claims. Person – other than injured or ill worker accounted for 37.5% and person – injured or ill worker, 16.9% (see Table 3.4A).

Table 3.4A
Source of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2000-2004

Source of Injury or Disease	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	**1,755**	**1,774**	**1,921**	**2,067**	**1,951**	**9,468**	**55.1%**
Person - Other Than Injured or Ill Worker [1]	1,268	1,248	1,293	1,362	1,267	6,438	37.5%
Person - Injured or Ill Worker	468	509	599	684	638	2,898	16.9%
Minerals - Metallic and Non-Metallic (except fuel)	2	3	1	1	2	9	0.1%
Other Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	17	14	28	20	44	123	0.7%
Structures and Surfaces	**336**	**356**	**395**	**411**	**467**	**1,965**	**11.4%**
Containers [2]	**168**	**156**	**161**	**161**	**164**	**810**	**4.7%**
Tools, Instruments and Equipment	**152**	**174**	**168**	**189**	**157**	**840**	**4.9%**
Hand Tools - Non-powered	37	35	42	44	31	189	1.1%
Hand Tools - Powered	4	5	4	6	4	23	0.1%
Other Tools and Equipments	111	134	122	139	122	628	3.7%
Furniture and Fixtures	**136**	**130**	**145**	**158**	**146**	**715**	**4.2%**
Vehicles	**117**	**132**	**148**	**173**	**142**	**712**	**4.1%**
Machinery	**74**	**66**	**75**	**68**	**86**	**369**	**2.1%**
Parts and Materials	**43**	**29**	**25**	**41**	**34**	**172**	**1.0%**
Chemicals and Chemical Products	**28**	**30**	**38**	**26**	**31**	**153**	**0.9%**
Other Sources	**54**	**53**	**60**	**81**	**64**	**312**	**1.8%**
Source of Injury - Unknown	**276**	**367**	**494**	**269**	**251**	**1,657**	**9.6%**
Total	**3,139**	**3,267**	**3,630**	**3,644**	**3,493**	**17,173**	**100.0%**

[1] Person – other than injured or ill worker: classifies injuries or illnesses inflicted by family members as well as non-family relations, including co-workers, former co-workers, and patients.
[2] Containers: classifies receptacles commonly used to hold, store or carry materials (examples: dishes, cups and glasses, luggage, etc.)

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2004, person – other than injured or ill worker accounted for 36.3% of all claims in the Health Services industries. This was over eleven times higher than the average percentage of injuries for this source of injury category for the whole province (see Table 3.4B).

Table 3.4B
Source of Injury or Disease — Comparison 2004[5]

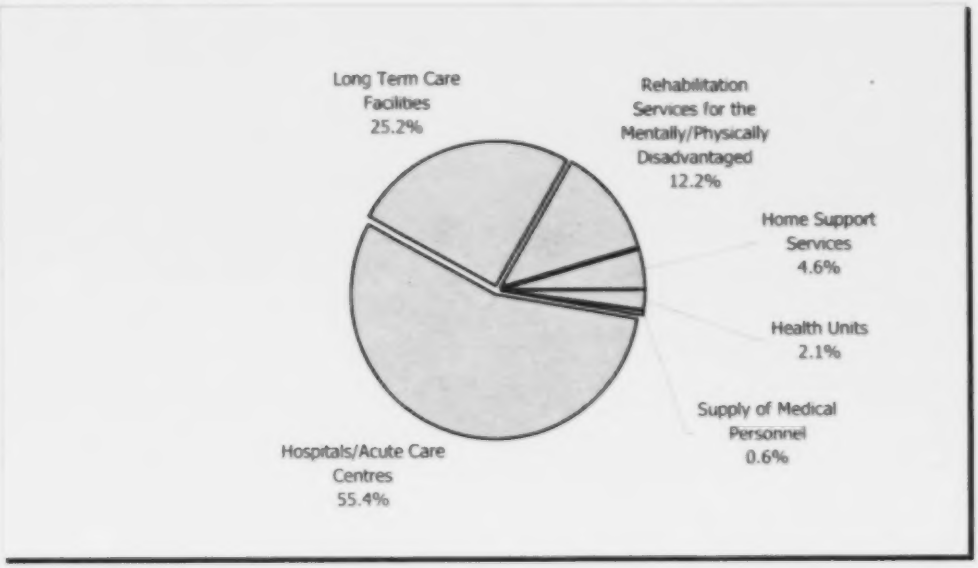
Source of Injury or Disease	% of Health Services Industries' Claims	% of Total Provincial Claims	Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average
Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	**55.9%**	**25.2%**	**3.4**
Person - Other Than Injured or Ill Worker	36.3%	4.9%	11.4
Person - Injured or Ill Worker	18.3%	18.4%	1.5
Minerals - Metallic and Non-Metallic (except fuel)	0.1%	0.3%	0.3
Other Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	1.3%	1.6%	1.6
Structures and Surfaces	**13.4%**	**15.9%**	**1.3**
Tools, Instruments and Equipment	**4.5%**	**6.2%**	**1.1**
Hand Tools - Non-powered	0.9%	3.3%	0.4
Hand Tools - Powered	0.1%	0.9%	0.2
Other Tools and Equipments	3.5%	2.0%	2.7
Vehicles	**4.1%**	**7.2%**	**0.9**
Containers	**4.7%**	**10.1%**	**0.7**
Furniture and Fixtures	**4.2%**	**3.2%**	**2.1**
Machinery	**2.5%**	**5.7%**	**0.7**
Parts and Materials	**1.0%**	**9.8%**	**0.2**
Chemicals and Chemical Products	**0.9%**	**0.9%**	**1.5**
Other Sources	**1.8%**	**5.3%**	**0.5**
Source of Injury - Unknown	**7.2%**	**10.5%**	**1.1**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[5] Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

More than half of the claims in 2004 caused by person – other than injured or ill worker occurred in Hospitals and Acute Care Centres. Long Term Care Facilities represented 25.2% of these claims (see Chart 3.4A).

Chart 3.4A
Person – Other Than Injured or Ill Worker by Industry — Alberta: 2004


Long Term Care Facilities 25.2%
Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally/Physically Disadvantaged 12.2%
Home Support Services 4.6%
Health Units 2.1%
Supply of Medical Personnel 0.6%
Hospitals/Acute Care Centres 55.4%

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

3.5 Type of Event or Exposure

The type of event or exposure describes the incident or event that occurred at the time of the exposure that directly resulted in the injury or disease.

The two most common types of events or exposures: overexertion and bodily reaction, comprised more than half of the lost-time claims in the Health Services industries. Between 2000 and 2004, overexertion and bodily reaction accounted for 44.1% and 11.4% of claims respectively (see Table 3.5A).

Table 3.5A
Type of Event or Exposure — Alberta: 2000-2004

Type of Event or Exposure	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
Bodily Reaction and Exertion	**1,971**	**1,994**	**2,126**	**2,336**	**2,162**	**10,589**	**61.7%**
Overexertion	1,484	1,471	1,500	1,626	1,489	7,570	44.1%
Bodily Reaction [1]	318	352	411	460	423	1,964	11.4%
Repetitive Motion	123	126	144	189	177	759	4.4%
Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion	46	45	71	61	73	296	1.7%
Falls	**325**	**363**	**383**	**387**	**460**	**1,918**	**11.2%**
Fall on Same Level	263	285	326	326	390	1,590	9.3%
Fall to Lower Level	50	61	47	56	59	273	1.6%
Other Falls	12	17	10	5	11	55	0.3%
Contact with Objects and Equipment	**317**	**311**	**337**	**334**	**318**	**1,617**	**9.4%**
Struck by Objects	156	153	169	164	151	793	4.6%
Struck Against Objects	104	96	104	111	107	522	3.0%
Caught in Objects	52	51	58	47	37	245	1.4%
Rubbed or Abraded	4	6	2	3	3	18	0.1%
Other Contact with Objects/Equipment	1	5	4	9	20	39	0.2%
Assaults and Violent Acts	**192**	**184**	**192**	**182**	**190**	**940**	**5.5%**
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s)	190	184	187	181	183	925	5.4%
Other Assaults and Violent Acts	2	0	5	1	7	15	0.1%
Exposure to Harmful Substances	**82**	**87**	**103**	**110**	**118**	**500**	**2.9%**
Transportation Accidents	**66**	**69**	**85**	**95**	**72**	**387**	**2.3%**
Fires and Explosions	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**< 0.1%**
Other Events and Exposures	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**-**	**1**	**< 0.1%**
Type of Event - Unknown	**186**	**258**	**403**	**199**	**173**	**1,219**	**7.1%**
Total	**3,139**	**3,267**	**3,630**	**3,644**	**3,493**	**17,173**	**100.0%**

[1] Bodily reaction: injuries or illnesses resulting from a single incident of free bodily motion which imposed stress or strain on some part of the body.

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2004, overexertion accounted for 42.6% of all claims in the Health Services industries. This was nearly three times higher than the average percentage of injuries for this type of event category for the whole province. Assaults and violent acts by person(s) accounted for 5.2% of claims, but was more than six times greater than the provincial average (see Table 3.5B).

Table 3.5B
Type of Event or Exposure — Comparison 2004[6]

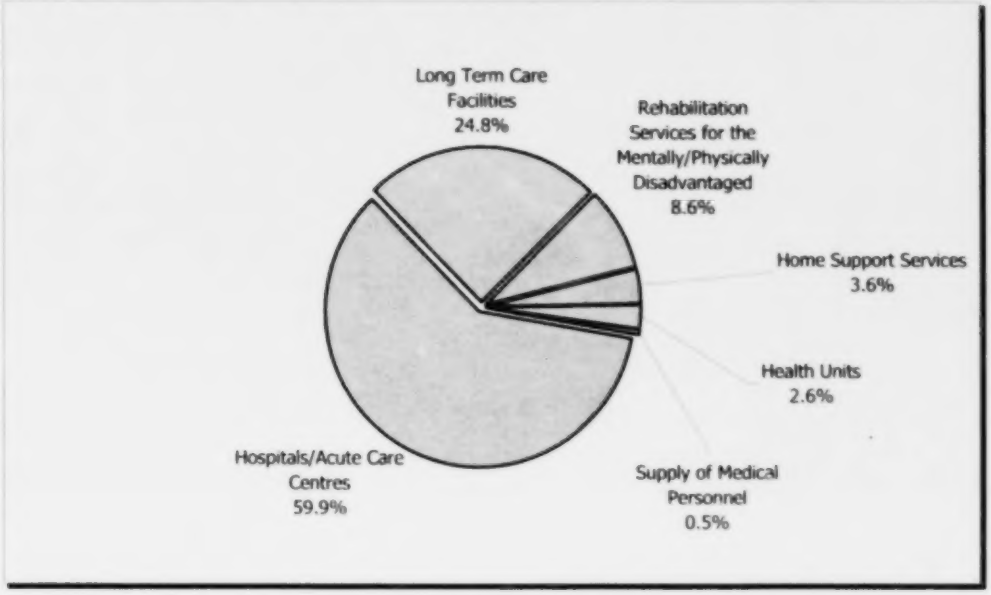
Type of Event or Exposure	% of Health Services Industries' Claims	% of Total Provincial Claims	Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average
Bodily Reaction and Exertion	**61.9%**	**42.5%**	**2.3**
Overexertion	42.6%	23.2%	2.9
Bodily Reaction	12.1%	12.1%	1.6
Repetitive Motion	5.1%	5.4%	1.5
Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion	2.1%	1.9%	1.7
Falls	**13.2%**	**16.3%**	**1.3**
Fall to Same Level	11.2%	10.5%	1.6
Fall to Lower Level	1.7%	4.8%	0.5
Other Falls	0.3%	1.0%	0.5
Contact With Objects and Equipment	**9.1%**	**24.0%**	**0.6**
Struck by Object	4.3%	12.5%	0.5
Struck Against Object	3.1%	5.0%	0.9
Caught in Object	1.1%	4.2%	0.4
Rubbed or Abraded	0.1%	1.2%	0.1
Other Contact With Object/Equipment	0.6%	1.0%	0.8
Assaults and Violent Acts	**5.4%**	**1.4%**	**5.9**
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s)	5.2%	1.2%	6.6
Other Assaults and Violent Acts	0.2%	0.2%	1.7
Exposure to Harmful Substances	**3.4%**	**4.3%**	**1.2**
Transportation Accidents	**2.1%**	**4.8%**	**0.7**
Type of Event - Unknown	**5.0%**	**6.5%**	**1.2**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[6] Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Of the overexertion lost-time claims in the Health Services industries in 2004, most of the claims occurred in Hospitals and Acute Care Centres, at 59.8% or Long Term Care Facilities, at 24.9% (see Chart 3.5A).

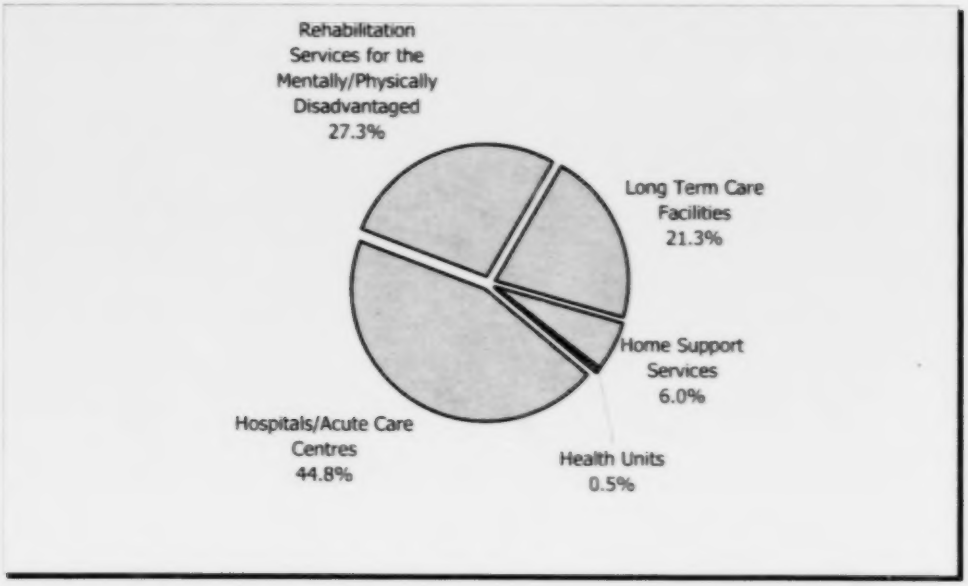
Chart 3.5A
Overexertion by Industry — Alberta: 2004


Long Term Care Facilities 24.8%
Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally/Physically Disadvantaged 8.6%
Home Support Services 3.6%
Health Units 2.6%
Supply of Medical Personnel 0.5%
Hospitals/Acute Care Centres 59.9%

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Of the assault and violent acts by a person in 2004, Hospitals and Acute Care Centres accounted for 44.8% of claims, followed by Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally or Physically Disadvantaged at 27.3%. Long Term Care Facilities had 21.3% of all claims (see Chart 3.5B).

Chart 3.5B
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s) by Industry — Alberta: 2004


Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally/Physically Disadvantaged 27.3%
Long Term Care Facilities 21.3%
Home Support Services 6.0%
Health Units 0.5%
Hospitals/Acute Care Centres 44.8%

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

3.6 Duration of Disability

Duration of disability[7] is intended to reflect the severity of the effects of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work. However, the efforts of employers to introduce modified work programs to integrate injured workers more quickly back into the workforce can have a positive impact on workdays lost.

From 2000 to 2004, over half of lost-time claims resulted in a duration of disability of 10 days or less. Claims with one to five days duration represented 38.6% of all claims and claims with six to ten days duration accounted for 14.3%. Lost-time claims resulting in 51 days or more lost from work between 2000 and 2004 accounted for 14.8% of all claims (see Table 3.6A).

Table 3.6A
Duration of Disability — Alberta: 2000-2004

Duration of Disability	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
1 – 5 Days	1,154	1,281	1,366	1,481	**1,347**	6,629	38.6%
6 – 10 Days	482	496	498	496	**492**	2,464	14.3%
11 – 15 Days	276	258	265	274	**296**	1,369	8.0%
16 – 20 Days	164	159	206	217	**198**	944	5.5%
21 – 30 Days	219	233	261	263	**293**	1,269	7.4%
31 – 40 Days	158	144	186	174	**173**	835	4.9%
41 – 50 Days	109	106	140	118	**126**	599	3.5%
51 Days or More	494	509	602	520	**425**	2,550	14.8%
Unspecified	83	81	106	101	**143**	514	3.0%
Total	**3,139**	**3,267**	**3,630**	**3,644**	**3,493**	**17,173**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[7] The duration of disability refers to the length of time, in days, for which the worker receives wage compensation from the WCB.

In 2004, claims with one to five days duration of disability accounted for 38.6% all claims in the Health Services industries. This was 1.6 times higher than the average percentage of injuries for claims of this duration for the whole province. All durations of disability for the Health Services were higher than the provincial average (see Table 3.6B).

Table 3.6B
Duration of Disability — Comparison 2004[8]

Duration of Disability	% of Health Services Industries' Claims	% of Total Provincial Claims	Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average
1 – 5 Days	38.6%	37.0%	1.6
6 – 10 Days	14.1%	13.0%	1.7
11 – 15 Days	8.5%	7.3%	1.8
16 – 20 Days	5.7%	4.8%	1.8
21 – 30 Days	8.4%	7.0%	1.9
31 – 40 Days	5.0%	4.9%	1.6
41 – 50 Days	3.6%	3.7%	1.5
51 Days or More	12.2%	14.8%	1.3
Unspecified	4.1%	7.3%	0.9

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[8] Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

SECTION 4

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION EMPLOYERS

A Certificate of Recognition (COR) is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards. Certificates are issued by Certifying Partners and are co-signed by AHRE[9].

In 2004, nearly seven percent of Health Services industries' employers were COR holders. These employers represented 55.4% of the total person-years in the Health Services industries. In the Long Term Care Facilities industry, 21.4% of employers had a valid COR, representing 41.2% of the total person-years in this industry. More than seventeen percent of employers in the Hospitals/Acute Care Centres industry were COR holders, accounting for more than seventy percent of all person-years (see Table 4.0).

Table 4.0
Employers With Valid COR — Alberta: 2004

Industry	Number of Certified Employers	Total Number of Employers	% of Total Employers Certified	% of Total Person-Years Certified
Hospitals/Acute Care Centres	28	157	17.8%	70.1%
Home Support Services	0	669	0.0%	0.0%
Health Units	3	19	15.8%	58.3%
Supply of Medical Personnel	19	149	12.8%	33.0%
Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally or Physically Disadvantaged	2	146	1.4%	8.3%
Long Term Care Facilities	34	159	21.4%	41.2%
Health Services Industries	**86**	**1,299**	**6.6%**	**55.4%**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[9] For more information on the COR program visit Hwww.gov.ab.ca/hre/whs/partnersH

Between 2003 and 2004, the lost-time claim rate for COR holders in the Health Services industries decreased by 9.0%, while the rate for non-COR holders decreased by 10.5%. For the province, both employers with a valid COR and non-COR holders experienced a 10.3% reduction in their lost-time claim rates (see Table 4.1).

Table 4.1
Lost-Time Claim Rate for Health Services COR Holders — Alberta: 2003 and 2004

		Health Services Industries				Province			
Employer	Year	LTCs	Person-Years	LTC Rate	Change in LTC Rate	LTCs	Person-Years	LTC Rate	Change in LTC Rate
COR	2003	1,715	44,262	3.9	-9.0%	10,906	374,757	2.9	-10.3%
	2004	1,693	48,004	3.5		10,522	403,984	2.6	
Non-COR	2003	1,929	37,062	5.2	-10.5%	25,669	888,356	2.9	-10.3%
	2004	1,800	38,622	4.7		24,597	949,230	2.6	

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared Data Development and Evaluation

APPENDIX A: TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND FORMULAS

Lost-Time Claim

A lost-time claim (LTC) is a claim for an occupational injury or disease which disables the worker beyond the day of injury. Included are claims for which wages compensation are paid, permanent disability claims, fatalities and cases in which the injured worker is assigned light duties or other modified work upon return to work from time lost due to injury.

Person-Years

Person-Year estimates are calculated from wage and payroll data provided by account holders to the WCB. Alberta Human Resources and Employment uses this data to estimate an average industry wage and uses the average industry wage and employer payroll data to estimate person-years for each employer and each industry. One person-year is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year and can be assumed to equal 2,000 hours worked.

LTC Rate

The lost-time claim (LTC) rate is calculated by dividing the number of lost-time claims by the person-year estimate and multiplying the result by 100. The LTC rate represents the probability or risk of disabling injury or disease to a worker during a period of one-year work. Comparisons of LTC rates between industries or between years can be used to indicate increases, decreases or differences in this risk.

$$\text{LTC Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of LTCs} \times 100}{\text{Person-Years}}$$

Duration (Days Lost)

The duration of disability is the number of days following the injury or disease for which the worker was disabled and unable to perform normal work duties. This information is obtained for this report from data on compensation days paid on each claim from WCB. Alberta Human Resources and Employment obtains this data on March 31 of the year following the claim year and does not update the information, even though many injured workers continue to be disabled beyond this date. As a result, the duration information reported here underestimates the true impact of lost-time injury and disease.

Duration Rate

The duration rate is calculated by dividing the number of workdays lost (disability days) by the person-year estimate, and multiplying by 100. The result is expressed as days lost per 100 person-years and indicates, in part, the economic impact of occupational injury and disease. Duration rates are not recommended as reliable indicators of full economic cost. In addition, readers are warned that duration rates are highly unstable when based on only a few lost-time claims; it is recommended that the duration rate not be calculated based upon fewer than 30 lost-time claims.

$$\text{Duration Rate} = \frac{\text{Disability Days} \times 100}{\text{Person-Years}}$$

Cost of Claims

Compensation cost of a claim is the reimbursement of full or partial lost wages that a worker received from the WCB due to occupational illness or injury.

Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average

The number of times higher/lower than the provincial average is used to compare the performance of the industries with the province regarding specific injury or disease. A number less than one indicates that the injury of the industries is lower than the provincial average; if equal to one it indicates the injury of the industries is the same as the provincial average and a number greater than one indicates that the injury of the industries is higher than the provincial average.

$$\frac{\text{Percent of Total Claims for the Industries} \times \text{Industries' LTC Rate}}{\text{Percent of Total Claims for the Province} \times \text{Provincial LTC Rate}}$$

Where:

Percent of Total Claims for the Industries =

$$\frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Industries (e.g. back injury)} \times 100}{\text{Total LTCs for the Industries}}$$

Percent of Total Claims for the Province =

$$\frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Province (e.g. back injury)} \times 100}{\text{Total LTCs for the Province}}$$

NEC

Means 'Not Elsewhere Classified'.

UNS

Means 'Unspecified'.

B

APPENDIX B: HEALTH SERVICES WCB INDUSTRY CODES[10]

82100 – Hospitals and Acute Care Centres

82704 – Home Support Services

82705 – Health Units

82710 – Supply of Medical Personnel

82806 – Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally or Physically Disadvantaged

82808 – Long Term Care Facilities

[10] Codes are Workers' Compensation Board 2004 industry codes.

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Alberta Human Resources and Employment website:

www.gov.ab.ca/hre/whs/publications/statistics.asp

Work Safe Alberta website:

www.worksafely.org